



THE PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

For Early Broilers, Roasting Fowl or Capons They Are One of the Very Best Breeds.

No breed is so popular or well thought of by farmers as the Plymouth Rock and no breed is so often met with on farms. It is an American breed adapted to American needs and good in any and every place. The greatest consideration among farmers is that they are hardy. They need no pampering and are able to shift for themselves when necessary, yet give big returns for good food and care. The hens are good winter layers of large brown eggs. They are also good sitters and mothers. For early broilers, roasting fowl or capons they are one of the best breeds.



WELL-BRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

The bright yellow legs and skin gives them a very attractive appearance in market.

The Plymouth Rock is good enough for anybody and it has not been necessary to bring out a lot of different colored varieties. Yet in addition to the original barred there is the pure white and the buff. In dressing, these two varieties do not show dark pin feathers. The fancier who delights to breed for farm and feather will find ample opportunity with the barred Plymouth Rock. The most prominent breeders follow a system of double mating—mating one hen to two cockerels and another for single matings. The demand is for a much lighter color in males than in females. The standard weights are: Cocks, 9½ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; hens, 7½ pounds; pullets, 6½ pounds. A typical pair of such birds is here illustrated from a picture taken from the Orange Judd Farm.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

Young Farmers Should Think Seriously Before Abandoning the Country for the City.

The question is often asked of the young man on the farm, why he is so anxious to leave home and try his fortunes in the large city. The answer too often is, that he can see no future ahead if he stays where he is, and "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." With the finishing of the summer work, the hustle now being over, the long winter nights upon us, even more time is given to the ambitious or uneasy lad to reflect, until in an ill-considered moment he packs up, boards the train and shakes the dust of childhood days from his boots. It is to this class that the cry goes out: "Steady!" Take a moment to think. Think of the number who have gone before you, whose hearts yearn for the cool, fresh, sparkling air of the country morning, who would willingly return if it were not for the supposed criticism they would have to undergo. A large establishment, in a metropolitan city, not long ago, advertised for a clerk, to take a responsible position. To this over 300 answers were received; the average salary asked, seven dollars a week. A little calculation will show how much of this would be left after the board and incidentals were paid. Figures talk, and these show how overcrowded the field in the city has become in the last few years. Besides this meant a life of confinement, an atmosphere of impurity, with longer hours than the ordinary farmhand. Compare this with the income of the progressive young farmer; not the drone, but the one who gives honest, earnest study to the advancement of his profession. Look at his ruddy face and stalwart figure, the picture of health and happiness. Compare him with the office man, with narrow chest, transparent skin, showing too clearly the claims of a sedentary position upon his vitality. Now that winter is here, map out a course of reading for your undivided attention; read your favorite paper; study hard for the betterment of your home; advance the interests of the farm, the noblest work of man, the controlling power in this the greatest of nations.—Agricultural Epitome.

Shredded Corn for Horses.

Tests of shredded corn fodder as feed for horses have been made at several experiment stations, and the estimate varies at from 50 to 100 per cent. value compared with timothy—the usual standard. At the Vermont station corn fodder gave as good results as timothy with work stock. For idle horses it proved to be rather more indigestible than timothy. In this, however, all tests agree: Corn fodder is altogether too valuable for hay to be permitted to dry up in the field, as is the custom in the southwest.

Water Supply for Hogs.

Very few farmers realize the importance of giving hogs all the pure water they require at times. In many places they are watered once or twice a day. The lots and pastures should be so arranged that the hogs can get to the water trough whenever they desire it. This is especially important during the hot days of early spring, as well as the excessively hot weather in August. Hogs will not do well without plenty of water.

THE INTELLIGENT FARMER.

He Gets the Best There is Out of His Farm Because He Finds His Own Best into It.

E. L. Vincent says in Farm and Fireside: "Few of us get the best there is in our farms. That is because we do not put the best there is in us into them. There isn't much use in expecting great things on the farm unless we are willing to plan, work and study how to get those great things. How shall we go at it to do that? In the first place, the soil must be in a good state of fertility. This means that we have carefully saved up every particle of barnyard manure we have, and have seconded this effort by a judicious use of commercial fertilizer. It means, too, that we have not previously cropped the land to death. Then we will plow thoroughly. Not one man out of ten in this country knows how to plow; or, if he does, he has not the grit and the gumption to do it. Once in awhile we meet a farmer who insists that this part of the farm work shall be done thoroughly. He is on the way to success. It was an old Scotchman who said: 'Ye dinna ken how to plow in this country; ye only scratch the ground.' And that is about what most of us farmers do—we scratch the ground. And again, to get the best there is in our farms we must use the harrow more faithfully. The farmer has no better tool than a good harrow. I say a 'good' harrow, because hosts of farmers have not such a thing as a first-class harrow on the place. They are working away with the same old V-shaped 'drag' their fathers used, or else have picked up at some sale a worn-out thing not worth bringing home. No good work can be done with such a tool. Harrows of an up-to-date pattern are reasonable in price nowadays, and every farmer ought to have one or more. Good, clean seed is a requisite, too. No use to sow seed that will not grow, or that is full of weed seed. This may mean the purchase of a fanning mill, to be used in re-cleaning seed. We may better do this than to seed our farms down with foul weeds. But, finally, we will fall after all if we do not keep the weeds down in every crop that can be cultivated. This means steady work for a few weeks in the spring of the year, until the potatoes have been killed up and the corn is too large to admit of working a horse through it. But the end tells the story. Other things being equal, the man who puts himself into his work as I have here described may rest assured of a good crop—the best the soil will produce. And that ought to make him happy."

IMPROVED PLANK DRAG.

An Implement Which is Needed on Every Farm and Can Be Made at Small Expense.

We get from the Practical Farmer the illustration of an improved plank drag. The rear plank, A, is set flat instead of sloping and has



EXCELLENT PLANK DRAG.

two rows of straight, narrow teeth set in it. The teeth project three inches. A block of wood, B, is used at each end of plank as shown in and this may be taken out to vary the depth of the teeth. The rear of each plank also is shod with iron strips two inches wide and one-eighth inch thick. This adds to the life and efficiency of the drag.

Mature Birds for Layers.

Maturity is an important thing, says a writer in Farmer's Advocate. The bird that is to be pushed for eggs must be thoroughly mature or she cannot stand the strain. When I began to keep hens I was pleased down to the ground whenever a little misguiding pullet began to lay at the age of four or five months, and I would send an item about it to the local paper. But I have learned better now. A precocious pullet never makes a phenomenal layer. She lays one litter of eggs in September or October and then shuts up shop until February or March. I want a bird that has got her growth, a bird that is thoroughly mature; and I will keep her busy from the time she lays her first egg, about Thanksgiving, until she goes into moult the following fall.

Here of Cabbage Field.

An old English soldier tells how he missed the Victoria cross: "I was once sent out to India with a regiment to be pushed forward to the front, as a fierce war was going on. But one night we were suddenly attacked and I got separated from my comrades and I got wandered about in the thickest forest for nearly three hours, until I suddenly came into the open. I then laid myself flat on the ground to listen, as it was very dark. But I suddenly fancied I could see the enemy in front of me kneeling. I sprang to my feet, determined to cut some of them down before I was overpowered and shot, and, dashing forward, I slashed right and left until daylight broke over me, when I found that I had beheaded 550 red cabbages!"—Pearson's Weekly.

Farmers Need a Moses.

The implement dealers have organized; the best packers are following suit; the steel producers, the sugar makers, the millers, the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, every profession and every trade has its association or its union. What are the farmers of this country going to do in this direction? Will they be the last to get together for mutual protection and welfare? And after every citizen in the United States is a member of a trust, union or mutual benefit association, how much better off will we be than in the old days of individualism and free competition? Let the farmers take this up before it is too late to do them any good except defensive. What is first needed is a leader. Where is there a Moses?—Colman's Rural World.

MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry of the agricultural department, has held that office since 1884, and has been in that department of the government since 1879.

L. S. Elmer, assistant chief clerk of the post office department, is known as an authority on postal laws and regulations both of this country and of foreign countries. He compiled the postal manual, which enables clerks and business men to learn quickly the rates of postage on all articles. It is in concise form and gives briefly the salient points of the postal laws. Mr. Elmer has been in the service about 20 years.

Hugh McLaughlin, the veteran democratic leader of Brooklyn, has been suffering from insomnia, so he called in a doctor. "You are smoking too much," said the medical man, after making an examination, and he began to write a prescription, doubtless thinking that Mr. McLaughlin was too old to drop a long-established habit. "Will stopping tobacco have the same effect as this medicine you prescribe?" asked the old gentleman and on receiving an affirmative answer he said: "Then you may keep your prescription. I will use no more tobacco." And he has kept his word, though up to that time he had both smoked and chewed the weed for many years.

Secretary Shaw went over to the treasury department one morning accompanied by a friend from Iowa. While the pair were seated in Mr. Shaw's private office the secretary found a letter which particularly interested him. Leaning back in his chair, he put one foot on the corner of his desk. In half a minute a man dashed in, revolver in hand, and, covering the visitor, said: "Is this man trying to rob you, Mr. Shaw?" "No, no," shouted the secretary. "He is my friend." After some further excitement it developed that when he put his foot on the desk Mr. Shaw had pressed a button that calls a watchman. The man came in a hurry, just as he had been ordered to do.

President Roosevelt has decided to bar lighted cigars out of the white house and with the view of making known his desires regarding the matter has hung over a mantle in the public reception room the familiar sign: "No Smoking Allowed." Some time ago Arthur Simmons, the colored doorkeeper who has been at the white house for many years, was made smoke inspector, but he found that his efforts to put a stop to the nuisance provoked a good deal of talk among offenders. Mr. Simmons is a pious man and naturally that sort of talk shocked him exceedingly. Therefore he begged to be relieved from the task and so Mr. Roosevelt has hung up the sign.

HINTS FOR THE COOK.

To scale a fish more readily let it lie for a little time in salt water before scraping.

Never put warm food of any kind away in a covered dish if you want it to keep well.

To boil cream the day before enhances the richness of the coffee into which it is poured.

To remove the smell of onions from a saucerpan fill it with water and drop into it a red-hot cinder.

The remnant of stewed or preserved fruit left from tea will improve tapioca pudding the next day.

Milk is better for being kept over night in small tins than if a large quantity is kept over in one vessel.

If roasted potatoes are burst with a fork they will be found much lighter and more digestible than is cut with a knife.

Bake custards by setting the cups in a pan of water. This cooks them very evenly and makes them less liable to become watery.

When boiling a cracked egg, add a teaspoonful of salt to the water, and you will find that it cooks without any of the white part leaving the shell.

To remove a hot cake or pudding from a tin or mold turn upside down and cover with a cloth wrung out of cold water. The contents will slip out in a minute or two. To remove anything cold or frozen, reverse the process and wring the cloth out of hot water.

ECHOES FROM AFAR.

Pilgrimages to Mecca have been forbidden in Tunis during 1903 because of the prevalence of cholera in Egypt.

THE MARKETS.

CATTLE—Native Steers, Jan. 20, 1904. \$4.25 to \$5.40. COTTON—Middling, 57 1/2. FLOUR—Winter Wheat, 2 1/2. WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 82 1/2. CORN—No. 2, 60 1/2. OATS—No. 2, 35 1/2. PORK—Mess (new), 18 1/2 to 19 1/2.

COTTON—Middling, 57 1/2. BEEVES—Steers, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2. CALVES—Per 100 lbs., 4 1/2 to 5 1/2. HOGS—Fair to Choice, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2. SHEEP—Fair to Choice, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2. FLOUR—Patents, 3 1/2 to 3 3/4. WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 82 1/2. CORN—No. 2, 60 1/2. OATS—No. 2, 35 1/2. PORK—Mess (new), 18 1/2 to 19 1/2.

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WHEN BACKS ARE BAD.

Bad backs are caused by sick kidneys.

Most backache pains are kidney pains. Backache is the first symptom of kidney disorders.

Neglect the warning of the back, serious troubles follow.

It's only a short step to urinary derangements—diabetes, dropsy, Bright's disease.

Case No. 24,613.—Mr. Joseph Calmes, foreman of the Harter mill, Foster, O., says: "I just as ardently recommend Doan's Kidney Pills to-day, and it is the month of October, 1899, as I did in the summer of 1896, when, after taking a course of the treatment, they cured me of kidney complaint and backache, which was often so acute that I was unable to sleep at night and had difficulty in remaining on my feet all day. I am still free from the lumbar or any annoyance from my kidneys, and unhesitatingly declare that I am only too pleased to re-endorse my opinion of Doan's Kidney Pills."